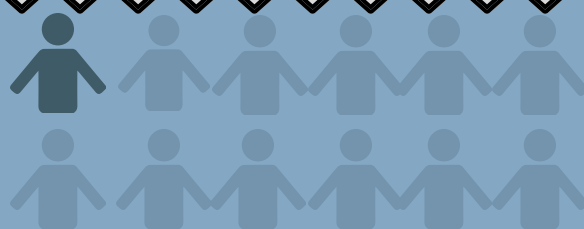


ARLINGTON FOOD INSECURITY BY THE NUMBERS



The USDA defines "food insecurity" as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food

8%



The Greater Boston Food Bank estimates that there are **3,550 food insecure individuals** living in Arlington

2,500+



According to the Western MA Food Bank, there are over **2,500 individuals** living in Arlington that are eligible for SNAP benefits but not receiving the benefit



WHAT IS SNAP?

SNAP is the federal food assistance program that provides low income residents with financial support to purchase food, and provides economic benefits to communities.

CLOSING THE SNAP GAP IN ARLINGTON

Arlington Health and Human Services is leading an effort in partnership with over two dozen community agencies and businesses to close the **Arlington SNAP Gap**, defined as the **number of residents who are eligible to receive SNAP but are not currently enrolled**. Hunger and access to food are social determinants of health. An increase in access to food will result in a healthier Arlington. Residents who qualify will be enrolled by staff from Health and Human Services.

QUALITY OF LIFE



In 2009-2010, the American Recovery and Responsibility Act (ARRA) boosted SNAP benefits by 13.6%. A study of MassHealth costs from 2006 - 2012 found that, when SNAP benefits were increased during the ARRA SNAP boost, MassHealth costs declined, primarily due to a drop in hospitalizations.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

The average SNAP benefit per person is \$126 per month. Over the course of the year, that amounts to **\$3.8M** in lost federal funding to support Arlington residents, businesses and the local economy.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

The Arlington Department of Health and Human Services needs your help in reaching out to residents that may qualify for SNAP. You can help us close the gap by spreading the word:

- post SNAP Gap materials in your agency or business
- reach out to friends and family about Closing the Arlington SNAP Gap efforts
- follow and promote #ArlingtonSNAPGap social media campaign
- volunteer to help a partnering agency to promote food distribution in Arlington

ARLINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WWW.ARLINGTONMA.GOV/SNAP
#ARLINGTONSNAPGAP